Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Weeks of December 23, 2002 to January 3, 2003

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Retail sales ($ millions)	October			Canadian retail sales rose by 1.7% in September. All seven retail sectors recorded an increase in sales, with the largest increases reported in clothing (+5.1%), automotives (+2.3%) and general merchandise (+1.6%). Newfoundland was the only province to show a decline in sales (-3.7%), with the other nine provinces all showing gains from October. These were led by Saskatchewan (+3.1%), Alberta (+2.0%) and Quebec (+1.9%).
Alberta	3,187	2.0%	8.2%	
Canada	26,028	1.7%	7.4%	
Canadian GDP	October			Canadian real GDP rose 0.3% in October, the twelfth consecutive monthly increase, with a 4.1% gain from October 2001. Sectors with the largest year over year increases were wholesale trade (+8.4%), utilities (+7.0%) and administrative and waste management services (+6.8%). The only industry that recorded a decline from October 2001 was agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (-5.9%).
(millions of 1997 dollars)	984,393	0.3%	4.1%	
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	November			The Canadian industrial product price index decreased by 0.3% in November, due to price drops in petroleum and coal products (-2.6%), lumber and other wood products (-1.0%), and meat, fish and dairy products (-0.7%). On a year over year basis, the index increased by 2.2%, led by petroleum and coal products (+16.4%).
	108.6	-0.3%	2.2%	
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	November			The Raw Materials Price Index decreased by 3.1% in November, driven by decreases in mineral fuels (-7.8%). The lowering of the index was tempered by a 3.3% price increase in non-ferrous metals and a 1.4% increase in vegetable products. Year over year, the index rose by 11.3%, led by vegetable products (+22.4%) and mineral fuels (+18.9%). In this same period, the only decrease was found in animal and animal products (-1.3%).
	113.3	-3.1%	11.3%	